National Body for effective energy policy review

846. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it was ever considered to form a suitable national body comprising of acknowledged experts in the field for an effective "Energy Policy Review"; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) An Energy Policy Committee has been set up in the Planning Commission to recommend an outline of the energy policy for the next 15-20 years. The members include Secretaries to the Government of India in the Ministries of Power, Coal, Petroleum & Natural Gas, Non-Conventional Energy Sources, Environmental & Forests and Department of Atomic Energy. Experts from Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research, Tata Energy Research Institute etc. are also associated in the Committee.

Complete Rural electrification in the Country

†847. SHRI VIJAY SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of Power be pleased to state:

(a) by when Government will achieve the target of complete rural electrification in the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that some of the States are adopting non-cooperating attitude for the achievement of target; and

(c) if so, the States which are moving towards in the achievement of target of full rural electrification and which are the States lagging behind in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) The Chief Ministers' Conference held on 3rd March, 2001 had resolved to complete village electrification by the end of Tenth Plan *i.e.* by 2007 and the coverage of all households, by 2012.

(b) No, Sir.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) At the end of May, 2002, nine States *i.e.* Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Kerala, Maharashtra, Punjab, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu and all Union Territories have already achieved 100% village electrification as per 1991 census.

Ten States *i.e.* Himachal Pradesh, J&K, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Rajasthan, Tripura are moving towards the achievements of full village electrification.

Nine States *i.e.* Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Jharkhand, Meghalaya, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal and West Bengal are below the national level of 86.7% village electrification.

The average rural household electrification in the country, as per 1991 census is 31%. The States which are below the national average are Rajasthan, Tirpura, West Bengal, Orissa, Meghalaya, Assam, U.P., Bihar and J&K. All the rural households are targeted for electrification by 2012 and the States have reiterated their resolve to complete this task by 2012.

Handling over power distribution to Private Companies

†848. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to hand over the power distribution to private companies throughout the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that private companies after obtaining all the rights are providing better facilities to industries only;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Government propose to exert pressure for providing better power to consumers; and

(f) if so, in what manner along with details thereof?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.